THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. The construction of four-lane divided carriageway from Gopalganj to Kishanganj *via* Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Forbesganj and Purnea on NH-28, NH-57 and NH-31 in Bihar has been started under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) except bridge across river Kosi with its approaches.

(b) No, Sir. This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Ghoghardiha-Phulparas road is not a National Highway.

(c) Does not arise.

Cess on Cargo

3918. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are collecting Cess on Cargo;

(b) if so, the total amount collected on this account in the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the manner in which financial drain from State resources are being compensated?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Oil Pollution Cess (Cess) is collected by the Central Government in terms of Section 356M of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. details of the Cess collected, year-wise, during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Amount
2004-05	Rs. 3,06,14,635
2005-06	Rs. 2,47,30,054
2006-07	Rs. 2,96,35,289
Total:	Rs. 8,49,79,978

(c) The Cess is levied on ships calling at ports in India which carry oil as cargo. Question of compensation for financial drain from State resources, therefore, does not arise.

Maritime university

3919. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made to set up Maritime universities in different States;

(b) if so, the details of demands from NGOs and concerned people demanding setting up new maritime universities to meet the demands of the shipping sector;

(c) whether such a demand has been made to locate a new Institute/ University at Vishakhapatnam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Demands have been received from some State Governments, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Employees' Associations of the training institutes under Indian Institute of maritime Studies, Mumbai and Forum on Social & Human Rights, Andhra Pradesh to locate the Maritime University in the respective States including Vishakhapatnam in state of Andhra Pradesh. The Government has introduced the Indian Maritime University Bill 2007 in Lok Sabha on 13.3.2007. The Bill envisages that the headquarter of the University shall be at Chennai with its campuses at Mumbai, Kolkata, Vishakhapatnam and such other places within its jurisdiction as it may deem fit.